

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-27 (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) A stent comprising a strut element, wherein the strut element includes a solid metallic inner core having an inner side and an opposed, outer side, and an outer layer disposed on the outer side, over the inner core, the outer layer being made from a first porous metallic material, wherein the outer layer holds a therapeutic substance for local delivery of the therapeutic substance after the stent has been implanted in a vessel and an inner layer disposed on the inner side, the inner layer being made from a second porous metallic material, wherein the strut is formed from a sheet such that the solid core causes fluid impregnated in the second porous layer to flow only in a radially inward direction after the stent has been implanted in a vessel.

29. (Currently amended) The stent of Claim 28, wherein the at least one of the first and second porous metallic material is made from sintered particles, filaments or fibers.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently amended) A stent comprising a solid metallic region and a porous metallic region disposed on the solid metallic region, and first and second ends disposed along a longitudinal seam of the stent, wherein the first and second ends are opposing ends of a sheet from which the porous and solid regions were formed.

~~wherein the porous metallic region holds a therapeutic substance for the local delivery of the therapeutic substance after the stent has been implanted in a vessel.~~

32. (Original) The stent of Claim 31, wherein the porous metallic region is made from sintered particles, filaments or fibers.

Claims 33-40 (Canceled).

41. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 28, wherein the outer layer is the outermost layer.

42. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 31, wherein the pore size of the porous metallic region is 2 to 4 microns.

43. (Currently amended) The stent of claim 31, wherein the metallic porous region is an outermost layer.

44. (New) A stent comprising: a sheet having opposed ends and forming a cylinder, the sheet including a solid core and a porous layer disposed on the core, and a seam connecting the opposed ends along a length of the stent.

45. (New) The stent of Claim 44, the sheet including a first porous layer facing radially outward, a second porous layer facing radially inward, the solid core is disposed between and separating the porous layers and configured such that a first agent contained in the first layer only permeates radially outward and a second agent contained in the second layer only permeates radially inward.

46. (New) The stent of Claim 45, wherein the first porous layer is formed from sintered particles, filaments or fibers.

47. (New) The stent of Claim 46, wherein the second porous layer is formed from sintered particles, filaments or fibers.

48. (New) The stent of Claim 45, wherein the seam is a weld.

49. (New) The stent of Claim 45, wherein one or both of the porous layers are adapted for being loaded with a therapeutic agent that is released after the stent has reached an implant site.